UNITED
NATIONS

A

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18 July 1995

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART IV. THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section 1 - Canada

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95- 02230

IV.1 CANADA

1. Beneficiary population

1. According to statistics provided by the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), some 22,000 asylum claims were submitted during 1994. This reflects a slight upward trend over 1993, during which 20,500 claims were filed, but down from 37,700 in 1992. Projections for 1995 confirm this upward trend. In a comparative study carried out by the Convention Refugee Determination Division (CRDD) of the IRB, 39 per cent of the 1993 and 1994 claimants were female and the acceptance rate for female refugee claimants was higher than for male claimants in 1992, 1993 and 1994. During 1994 the CRDD heard 19,644 claims (including backlog from the previous year) and rendered decisions on 21,666 cases. Refugee status was granted to 15,224 (70 per cent) while 6,442 (30 per cent) were rejected. A total of 3,404 claims were withdrawn or abandoned.

2. Claims by asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka and Somalia accounted for 25 per cent of all claims filed in 1994, while other large groups of asylum-seekers came from the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, Israel, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, the Russian Federation and Guatemala. The expedited hearing process, an accelerated procedure which identifies claims considered to be sufficiently straightforward to allow for rapid, mainly positive, decision, processed 27 per cent of all decisions.

3. Refugees in Canada are eligible for, and are usually granted, permanent residence upon recognition and may apply for citizenship within three years. In 1994, 19,676 persons became eligible for permanent residence on a refugee or humanitarian basis.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration announced, in July 1994, new measures to deal with an estimated 25,000 rejected asylum-seekers, of whom some 8,000 are under deferred removal orders. Failed refugee claimants who have been under a removal order for more than three years, have established themselves in Canada, have worked for at least six months since making their refugee claim and do not pose a security risk, will be allowed to apply for permanent residence. The Minister also announced in July 1994 the resumption of deportations to China, as well as to all other countries with the exception of Afghanistan, Burundi, Rwanda and Haiti, to come into force in October 1994. In addition, a special task force was set up to concentrate exclusively on tracking down and removing foreign criminals with serious convictions who had evaded removal action.

5. A significant decision was taken in 1994 by the IRB in which a Somali mother and her two minor children were granted refugee status in their separate claims of persecution as members of a social group. The daughter's case was based on the fear of female genital mutilation as persecution, and the son's was based on his fear of separation from his mother owing to child custody being the automatic right, under shariah law, of the divorced husband living in Somalia.

6. In November 1994 the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration tabled his long-term immigration strategy for the years 1995 to 2000. The immigration targets for 1995 were announced to be between 190,000 and 215,000 (compared with 250,000 for 1994) of which 24,000 to 32,000 would be refugees. Of these, approximately 10,000 will be resettled from abroad and the rest projected inland claimants.

7. In February 1995, following the budget speech which introduced massive public spending cuts, the Minister announced that every immigrant and refugee over the age of 18 applying for 'landed' status would have to pay a $Can 975 "right to landing" fee, in addition to the $Can 500 per person cost recovery fee. Loans will apparently be available on an interest-free basis to indigent applicants, but only where the applicant can demonstrate an ability to repay. The new fee structure has provoked strong criticism from refugee advocates, not only for imposing further financial hardship on refugees already in Canada, but because it risks excluding the resettlement of deserving refugees stranded abroad. The Branch Office in Canada did a survey of UNHCR offices in major resettlement countries and found that while two other asylum countries charge similar landing fees to immigrants, they exempt refugees from payment. This information has been transmitted to the Government and a response is awaited.

8. The originally approved 1995 local settlement allocation of $ 440,200 was increased due to rental increases at the Branch Office, which is shared on a 50 per cent basis with the implementing agency.

3. 1996 Country programmes

(a) Objectives

9. The country programme objectives will be similar in 1996 to those carried out in 1994 and 1995, although there will be an increasing focus on training and dissemination of refugee-related information.

(i) Local settlement

10. The Branch Office will continue to monitor the UNHCR-Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) special pilot project and urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to keep the quotas up by accepting more UNHCR-supported cases for settlement in Canada. It will provide information to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and sponsor groups as well as to the general population regarding UNHCR's resettlement policy and global assessment of priority resettlement needs. Input to the Women at Risk Programme policy and operations review, and location of sponsor groups for those resettlement cases referred to the Branch Office by the Resettlement Section at Headquarters and other UNHCR Branch Offices, is foreseen. Advocacy with the Federal and Provincial Governments to reinstate the Disabled Refugee Programme is a priority for 1996. Facilitation of all family reunification cases received by the Office, where family members are under UNHCR protection overseas, will also continue.

(ii) Voluntary repatriation

11. The Office will continue to assist, on a case-by-case basis, refugees who request repatriation from Canada to their countries of origin.

(iii) Public information/awareness campaign

12. Increasing emphasis will be put on training and information dissemination to refugee advocates, NGOs and IRB members. The Branch Office will continue the local production of information papers focusing on refugee issues of relevance to Canada, initiated in 1995. Implementation of the UNHCR/IRB Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 1994 will be facilitated by a Refugee Law Training Officer who joined the Branch Office in January 1995. The Training Officer will continue to take part in the pre-deployment training of Canadian peace-keepers. Another focus will be on the continued training of IRB members (country of origin information) across Canada. Presentations at different universities and institutes are foreseen as well.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) Local settlement

13. Implementing partner staff benefit increases, in line with national practice, will result in slightly higher needs for the local settlement project under General Programmes. Assistance provided will be in the form of individual subsistence allowances to persons most in need, as well as counselling to individuals through a Durable Solutions Coordinator and four Legal Officers throughout the country.

(c) Implementing partners

14. The sole implementing partner of UNHCR under the local settlement project is CARE-Canada. Improvements have already been made with respect to costs of, and range of services provided by, CARE and these have already been reflected in the 1995 programme. The level of agency overhead costs in relation to services will continue to be negotiated in 1995 in order to obtain a decrease in charges, and changes for 1996 may still take place.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

15. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

16. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates mainly because of lower than foreseen expenditure on rent and staff related costs.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

17. The revised 1995 requirements are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

18. The 1996 Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs are proposed at approximately the same level as revised 1995 levels.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN CANADA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES				
10.1 a/	–	–	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	–
33.0 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
424.5	440.2	457.0	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	477.7
426.7	554.1	556.5	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	535.3
894.3	**994.3**	**1,013.5**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**1,013.0**
83.5	90.2	59.2	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	56.5
977.8	**1,084.5**	**1,072.7**	**T O T A L (1)**	**1,069.5**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
–	–	8.7	OTHER TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	8.7
0.0	**0.0**	**8.7**	**T O T A L (2)**	**8.7**
977.8	**1,084.5**	**1,081.4**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**1,078.2**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
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Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

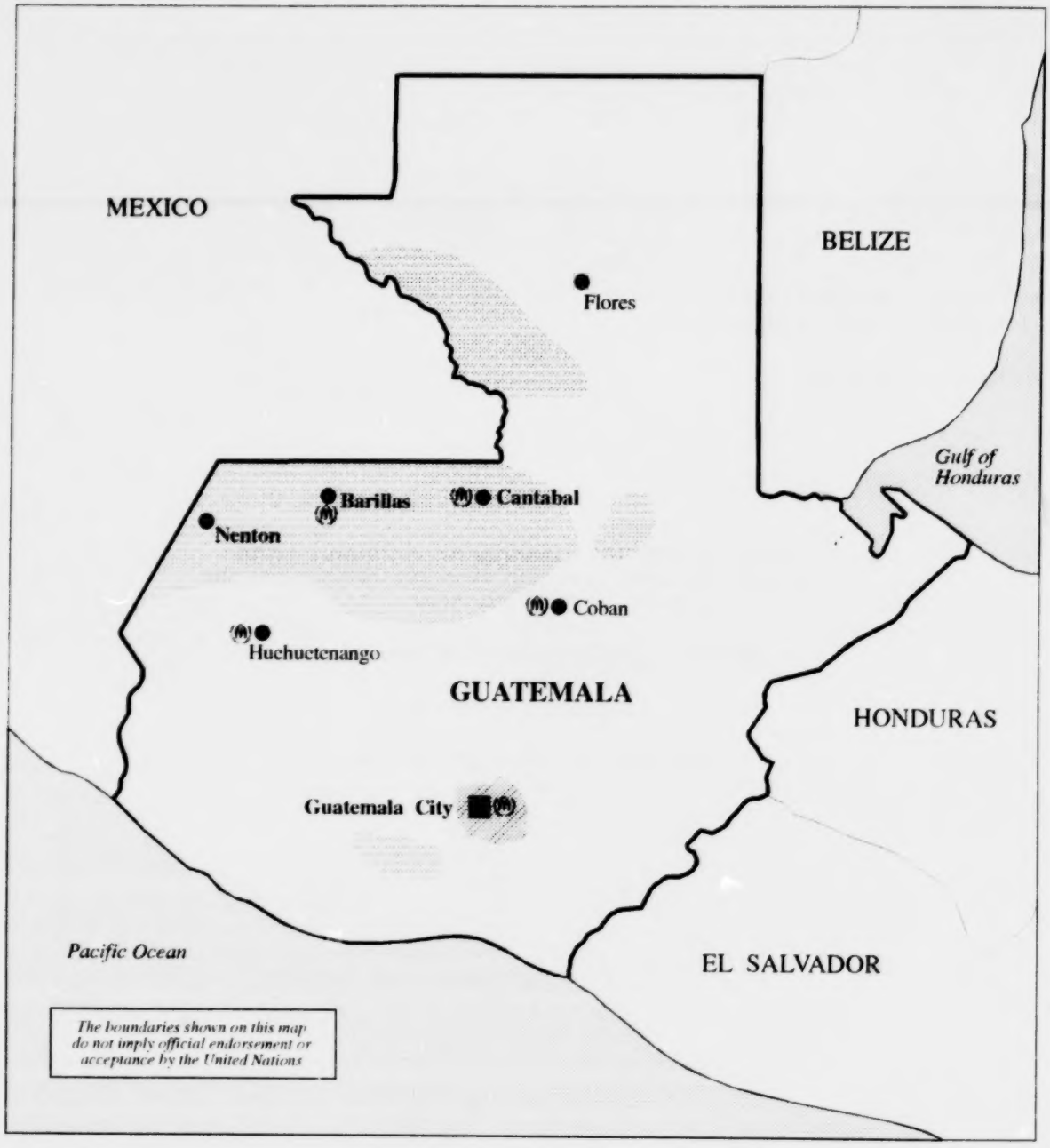
PART IV. THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section 2 - Guatemala

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02218

GUATEMALA


MEXICO
BELIZE
Flores
Gulf of Honduras
Barillas
Cantabal
Nenton
Coban
Huchuctenango
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
Guatemala City
Pacific Ocean
EL SALVADOR
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
100
Km.
Capital
Town or village
UNHCR Office
Returnee Area
Refugee Area

IV.2 GUATEMALA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, the recognized refugee population in Guatemala numbered 4,700 persons comprising 2,400 Salvadorans, 2,200 Nicaraguans, 35 Hondurans and 65 from other countries. These numbers show a considerable reduction, resulting from the ongoing refugee census, which has allowed UNHCR to maintain a far more accurate control of actual refugee beneficiaries.

2. During 1994, 6,018 Guatemalan refugees repatriated, mostly from Mexico. A further 4,768 returned during the first three months of 1995, bringing the total number of repatriants to more than 21,230 since 1987.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) **Refugees**

3. During 1994, only 40 refugees requested assistance for voluntary repatriation. Therefore, activities were concentrated more on local integration than voluntary repatriation. In that context, a census and a socio-economic survey of the refugee population were undertaken. Efforts were made to define the methodology for managing the scheme of mixed credits/grants for small businesses. During 1995, residence permits and naturalization are being facilitated for refugees deciding to remain in Guatemala. The refugee census has demonstrated that a significant proportion of refugees have attained self-sufficiency, and that the previously registered refugee population has been reduced by approximately 50 per cent. Based on those results, the overall amount of assistance foreseen under the local integration project has been reduced accordingly.

(b) **Returnees**

4. During 1994, four collective returns of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico, comprising a total of 4,123 persons, took place. The total of 6,018 returnees during the year was significantly lower compared to the original figure of 10,000 persons expected to repatriate during 1994.

5. Both collective returns and individual repatriations are taking place as foreseen in 1995. During the first four months, collective returns took place to Ixcan, Alta Verapaz, Petén and the southern coast. Together with individual repatriations to Huehuetenango, nearly 5,000 refugees had returned by the end of the first four months of 1995. Although it is still difficult to assess, a planning figure of 10,000 returnees is being maintained for the whole of 1995.

6. The collective returns planned for 1995 continue to encounter serious obstacles, mainly involving the scarcity of available land, the recovery of refugee-owned lands occupied by others, the high cost of land to be purchased, and the release of land and transfer of legal titles to the returnees. To support land negotiations, UNHCR facilitated during 1994 more than 125 refugee visits to Guatemala averaging two to three persons per visit.

7. Some quick impact projects (QIPs) were postponed during 1994 due to an uncertain funding situation. By the end of 1994, a total of 91 QIPs were undertaken. During 1995, QIPs are being reoriented to place greater emphasis on vocational training and productive projects, and to reduce investments in infrastructure, where increased governmental responsibility will be encouraged. Emphasis continues to be placed on promoting a gender focus in all QIPs so as to ensure the equitable participation of men and women. In line with People-Oriented Planning, attention will be paid to the reintegration needs of returnee children.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

8. **Refugees**: Local integration is seen as the preferred durable solution for the refugees who, despite improved conditions in their countries of origin, have not opted to repatriate to El Salvador or Nicaragua. A local integration project initiated in 1994 will concentrate on consolidating legal initiatives in close coordination with the Guatemalan Government and on providing material support for socio-economic integration. The targets for refugee integration by end 1996 are 60 per cent. In addition, efforts to promote the long-term protection of refugee rights will include support for the elaboration of national legislation to apply the 1951 Convention and the creation of a national structure to undertake refugee eligibility determination.

9. Voluntary repatriation is considered the most appropriate durable solution for the few non-Central American refugees. Where local integration is desired by the refugees, it will be facilitated whenever possible.

10. **Returnee programme**: It is expected that the repatriation and returnee reintegration process will continue at a regular pace in 1996. The destinations of collective returns will depend on the results of land visits to be undertaken in 1995 but are estimated to continue to be mainly in the regions of Huehuetenango, Ixcan, Alta Verapaz, the southern coast and Petén. Although it is expected that UNHCR may increasingly expand its individual assistance activities to include internally displaced in returnee areas, much depends on the results of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Army (URNG)-Government peace negotiations, which makes it difficult to forecast the precise nature or scope of such assistance at this stage.

11. As in previous years, the Office of the Chief of Mission (OCM) Guatemala will continue to closely coordinate with the UNHCR Regional Office in Mexico the transportation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico and will continue to provide through the Guatemalan Commissions for Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (CEAR) reception facilities and individual assistance in basic shelter and agricultural inputs. Confederacion de Religiosos de Guatemala (CONFREGUA) will also continue to facilitate returnees' personal documentation issued by municipal authorities. In view of WFP's intention to discontinue its operations in Chiapas, Mexico, efforts will be made to ensure that it continues to cover returnee food assistance during the initial reintegration phase through emergency rations and food-for-work schemes.

12. Material and logistical assistance will be provided for the repatriation and reception of an estimated 8,000 Guatemalan refugees to return through UNHCR-assisted repatriations. Major objectives of the programme are the resolution of problems concerning land tenure or access to land before the actual repatriation/collective return process, and to ensure that movements occur in an orderly fashion with the consent of all concerned parties.

13. QIPs will continue to be implemented to enhance opportunities for returnees' reintegration and reconciliation with the local population. It is expected that there will be an expansion in both the number and scope of these activities that link returnee aid to development actions in the zones most affected by conflict and poverty, where virtually all returnees settle. Both individual and community-focused assistance under the returnee programme are expected to continue until 1998.

14. To promote the sustainability of reintegration, attempts will be made to identify appropriate income-generating activities which ensure environmental sustainability in collective returnee settlements located in ecologically fragile areas, and in environmentally-protected zones.

15. An increased number of national NGOs under the coordination of the Canadian NGO Centre Canadien d'Etudes et de Coopération Internationale (CECI) will implement QIPs which will be sustained beyond the QIP phase by ensuring from the outset the continuation of activities through development-funded programmes. The operational capacity of national NGOs will be strengthened, with a view to the gradual phasing down of UNHCR reintegration activities. Dialogue and cooperation between United Nations agencies, especially UNDP, government institutions and NGOs will be promoted in order to increase the scope of development actions in returnee-affected areas and complete the pending agenda of the post-CIREFCA phase in Guatemala.

16. Subject to the recommendations of the Technical Committee which will oversee the implementation of the Agreement for the Resettlement of Uprooted Populations, UNHCR may extend its good offices to cover some internally displaced persons in Ixcan as in some other specific regions where the durability of the solution for returnees cannot be separated from the attainment of a solution for internally displaced persons who resettle in the same area. It is foreseen to implement such UNHCR protection activities as documentation within an integrated solutions approach in a United Nations inter-agency framework and in coordination with the Technical Committee.

17. Likewise, the Technical Committee may promote, in compliance with the above-mentioned Agreement, modalities of socio-economic reintegration not based on land and agricultural activities. Should these efforts be successful, UNHCR may have to consider new modalities of assistance, which would most probably not be feasible before 1996.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

18. **Local settlement**: The 1996 proposed allocation shows a considerable decrease in relation to the approved allocation for the same project for 1995, due to the reduction in the number of beneficiaries (from 400 to 300 persons) to be assisted under this project.

(ii) Special Programmes

19. **Repatriation/Reintegration Programme**: The reduction of the 1996 proposed allocation for both Voluntary Repatriation of Guatemalan Refugees from Mexico and Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Guatemalan Returnees Programmes as compared with the 1995 allocations, is due to the decrease in the number of refugees who are expected to repatriate (from 10,000 to 8,000 beneficiaries) during 1996.

(c) Implementing partners

20. The legal firm Bufete Paz, in close coordination with the OCM, will continue to provide legal and material assistance to refugees. The governmental agency CEAR is elaborating a strategy, with UNHCR support, for the integration of refugees.

21. CEAR will continue to be the UNHCR's main implementing partner for the reception of returnees, the delivery of basic individual/family assistance, and the provision of temporary documentation and certificates for a three-year exemption from military service for male adults. The Government will complement the returnee programme by providing administrative and operational staffing resources to CEAR and through credits for the purchase of land provided to returnees by the Fondo Nacional para la Paz (FONAPAZ). Credits for some productive activities are also provided by the Government through the Fondo de Reinserción Laboral y Productiva (FORELAP).

22. The umbrella Church organization, CONFREGUA, will continue to facilitate and provide follow-up to the issuance of personal documentation to returnees by municipal authorities.

23. CECI administers the community-focused QIPs to support the reintegration of returnees in Guatemala. The QIPs are implemented by a wide range of agencies or groupings such as NGOs, organized community groups, church dioceses and private firms through agreements made between CECI and the executing agencies. In addition, various NGOs, such as Médecins sans Frontières, Médecins du Monde and Vétérinaires sans Frontières will implement primary health care and veterinary activities during the initial phase of transportation and arrival at the destination area.

24. WFP will provide returnees with basic food supplies. In 1996, WFP will continue a Quick Action Project based on the food-for-work principle for poverty-stricken communities in areas affected by conflict. Shortages of basic

grains and the need to initiate productive activities immediately upon return are leading UNHCR and WFP to seek new modalities of food provision, which are to be defined by June 1995.

25. The objectives of the post-CIREFCA process for uprooted populations in Guatemala will be maintained through close collaboration between UNHCR and UNDP. Where possible, UNHCR will also coordinate reintegration activities with the application of UNDP's regionally-focused human development policy. The collaboration of other United Nations agencies in supporting both the repatriation and reintegration processes will be reinforced through technical or material assistance that can be offered by specialized agencies such as UNICEF, FAO, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT). Discussions to define possible avenues of cooperation with these agencies have already advanced through the Grupo de Concertacion y Apoyo a nivel Nacional (GRUCAN), a post-CIREFCA mechanism.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

26. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

27. The 1994 expenditure was not significantly different from revised estimates.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

28. The revised 1995 requirements are slightly higher than the initial estimates mainly due to the creation of a P-3 post of Regional Telecommunications Officer.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

29. The 1996 requirements do not vary significantly from the revised 1995 estimates.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN GUATEMALA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
38.4	47.9	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
70.2 a/	138.7	174.7	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	121.1
0.6 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
–	–	76.2	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	75.8
109.2	186.6	250.9	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	196.9
109.2	186.6	250.9	T O T A L (1)	196.9
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
			OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
4,965.9	5,710.0	4,908.3	REPATRIATION/RETURNEE PROGRAMME	4,000.0
1,263.7	1,273.8	1,299.4	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,366.0
164.5	169.0	308.7	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	311.3
117.3	115.0	165.0	Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	101.0
6,511.4	7,267.8	6,681.4	T O T A L (2)	5,778.3
6,620.6	7,454.4	6,932.3	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	5,975.2

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

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NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART IV. THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section 3 - Mexico

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02221

MEXICO

Gulf of Mexico
Merida
Cancun
State of Yucatan
Campeche
State of Quintana Roo
Quetzal-Edzna
Las Laureles
Kuchumatan
La Laguna
Keste
Maya Tecun
Maya Balam
Los Lirios
MEXICO
Chetumal
State of Tabasco
State of Campeche
Palenque
BELIZE
State of Chiapas
Caribbean Sea
Comitán
GUATEMALA
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
HONDURAS
0
200
Km.
City
Refugee settlement
Area of refugee camps
UNHCR Office

IV.3 MEXICO

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Mexico hosted some 47,400 recognized refugees, almost all of whom are assisted by UNHCR. Most are Guatemalans situated in settlements and camps (Campeche, Chiapas, Quintana Roo) with some Salvadorans and other nationalities living in Mexico City. Of the Guatemalan refugee children living in the states of Chiapas, Campeche and Quintana Roo, 48 per cent were born in Mexico.

2. An estimated 340,000 externally displaced persons and unrecognized refugees who are not being assisted by UNHCR continue to live in Mexico.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. The overall refugee population decreased considerably between January 1994 and the end of April 1995 as a result of voluntary repatriation, mainly of Guatemalan refugees who were settled in Quintana Roo and Campeche, as well as Chiapas. A total of 5,971 Guatemalan refugees repatriated voluntarily during 1994. An additional 4,764, or some 80 per cent of the 1994 figure, have already repatriated between January and the end of April 1995.

4. Support and assistance activities commenced in 1994 will be maintained in 1995 to prepare refugees for their eventual repatriation. Priority will continue to be given to gender-related activities through the consolidation of projects managed by women and of activities benefiting women so as to enhance their productive role among refugee and local communities. In addition to facilitating the issuance of documentation and providing logistical support, the thrust as from mid-1995 onward will be to intensify on-the-job skills training in micro-entrepreneurship and credit management and in self-supporting care and maintenance activities. This reorientation of activities aims to optimize the refugees' potential to be productive members of their country of asylum and eventually in their country of origin.

5. In June 1994, the Mexican Government hosted the closing ceremony of CIREFCA (International Conference on Central American Refugees) which included the following convening countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico and Belize. The ceremony was well attended by members of the donor and international community.

6. During 1994, more than 125 trips were supported by UNHCR for Guatemalan refugee representatives to visit their villages of destination prior to their groups' planned repatriation movement. During these trips, refugee representatives generally explore arrangements for the purchase of land or farms, or for the recovery of refugee-owned land. During 1995, UNHCR will continue to promote and support the visits of refugees to their villages of destination since these activities have proved to be invaluable for heightening interest in voluntary repatriation.

7. The outbreak of violence in Chiapas in January 1994 displaced Mexican peasants, particularly those living in rural areas, and seriously affected refugees in the State especially those in the Margaritas area, where some 70 refugee camps are located. Some refugees living on land owned by the Catholic Church have been directly affected by occupations by the displaced Mexican peasants. Fortunately, thanks to a willingness on all sides to find a solution and the timely intervention on the part of the Mexican Commission for Assistance to Refugees (COMAR), untoward incidents have been avoided. Due to continuing tensions in the State, refugees have been advised to refrain from leaving the camps. This limited mobility is of concern since 60 per cent of the refugees in Mexico are in Chiapas and this affects their income-generation possibilities.

8. In the Campeche and Quintana Roo Guatemalan refugee settlements, infrastructure activities mainly in water and electricity, initiated in previous years, are expected to be finalized by the end of 1995. These facilities will be handed over at an appropriate time to the relevant government institutions in the respective States. In early 1995, the Los Lirios camp in the State of Quintana Roo was closed following the voluntary repatriation of its last Guatemalan refugee residents.

9. During 1995, the UNHCR assistance programme in Mexico is being reviewed to take account of inflation and exchange rate changes, as well as changes to be introduced in programme direction.

3. 1996 country programme

(a) Objectives

(i) Guatemalan refugees

10. Promotion and preparatory activities for voluntary repatriation of refugees from the States of Chiapas, Campeche and Quintana Roo will continue during 1996. Based on the number of organized groups and on previous year's trends a planning figure of 8,000 Guatemalan returnees is foreseen for 1996.

11. The overall objective will be to continue to support and assist those refugees who opt for voluntary repatriation. Pending voluntary repatriation or another appropriate durable solution, the basic care and maintenance assistance programme will continue in Chiapas during 1996 to assist both those awaiting voluntary repatriation, and those who still opt to remain in Mexico and who have not yet achieved self-sufficiency. Efforts will focus on motivating and supporting refugee initiatives towards self-help and self-supporting activities. On-the-job skills training, technical guidance and support are some of the essential components in the shift of the methodology from individual assistance to a community-based approach which would benefit clusters of families. This approach aims to enable and empower Guatemalan refugees to assume their day-to-day responsibilities and be productive and self-supporting members of their communities.

12. WFP has announced its intention to terminate its emergency project in favour of refugees in Chiapas after February 1996. Alternatives to ensure that basic food needs of the refugees are met will have to be identified and worked out between the Mexican authorities and WFP.

13. The consolidation of the achievements towards refugee self-sufficiency in Campeche and Quintana Roo under the multi-year programme (1989-1992) will continue. Negotiations with the relevant national institutions will also continue in order to meet the criteria for the eventual transfer of responsibilities for the facilities under the health, sanitation, education, water and infrastructure sectors.

(ii) Urban refugees

14. The reorientation of the assistance, initiated during 1995, will continue in 1996 for a small but still significant number of urban refugees. The reorientation will lead to greater independence and integration of the urban refugees by promoting refugee training and counselling the beneficiaries on the use of the existing infrastructure and facilities. Programmes will support individual repatriation for those wishing to return to their country of origin.

15. Discussions with the Mexican Government on the legal status of refugees will continue.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

16. It should be noted that Trust Fund projects implemented during 1995 have been transferred to General Programmes for the year 1996.

17. During 1996, UNHCR will promote and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of 8,000 Guatemalan refugees from Mexico. Under the proposed allocation for Special Programmes of Guatemalan repatriation, expenditures mainly relate to transport, food, domestic needs and documentation of returnees.

18. The proposed allocation for the care and maintenance assistance for Guatemalan refugees located in Chiapas is lower than 1995 owing to the ongoing repatriation movements which have resulted in a decreased caseload. By mid-1996, it is expected that the total number of assisted beneficiaries will decrease to 17,000 persons. During 1996, part of the Guatemalan caseload living in Chiapas will continue to benefit from two programmes focusing on promoting self-sufficiency/income-generation, and training/health and nutrition activities. Training activities will be geared towards the promotion of women's awareness and participation in all aspects of their community activities. The planned project activities are expected to increase the refugees' chances for a successful reinstallation in Guatemala, as well as to increase the self-help capacity of those who have not yet made up their minds to repatriate and who will thus continue to remain in Mexico.

19. During 1996, some 12,250 Guatemalan refugees located in Campeche and Quintana Roo will benefit from UNHCR assistance mainly in terms of pre-school and primary education, transport, access to second and third level Mexican

institutions, health services, credit schemes for agricultural activities, and technical support for livestock programmes. The same beneficiaries will profit during 1996 from an ongoing training programme focusing on the improvement of refugees' occupational skills and enhancing their income-generation capabilities. Efforts will be made to ensure that 50 per cent of the participants are women.

20. During 1996, some 2,700 asylum-seekers and urban refugees from different nationalities will benefit from subsistence allowances to cover temporary lodging and other costs of their installation in Mexico, as well as support in the areas of education, vocational training and counselling. An allocation under General Programmes is also proposed to repatriate up to 150 urban refugees during 1996.

(c) **Implementing partners**

21. COMAR is UNHCR's main implementing partner in the three southern states, coordinating its work with the relevant government institutions at both federal and state levels. The Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social (IMSS) is in charge of health in Chiapas and Campeche, and the Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP) is in charge of pre-school and primary education in the three states.

22. These institutions are frequently involved in the implementation of UNHCR activities, especially since the signing of the letter of intent on 7 September 1993, and their role is expected to increase during the year.

23. UNHCR implementing partners Centro de Investigaciones y Apoyo a la Mujer (CIAM), Promoción de Servicios Comunitarios AC (PROSECO) and the Centro de Capacitación en Ecologia y Salud para Campesinos AC (CCESC) will continue to participate in health, training and repatriation activities, enhancing the participation of beneficiaries.

24. Since January 1994, assistance to urban refugees has been implemented by a Mexican non-governmental organization (NGO), Centro Mexicano de Ayuda a Refugiados AC (CEMAR). Legal and repatriation assistance to urban refugees are implemented directly by the Regional Office, but with administrative support from CEMAR.

25. Some 5,370 metric tons of basic food supplies were mobilized in 1994 through WFP. These supplies will include a three-month portion of the nine-month reintegration food assistance to be given to all repatriating to Guatemala from the three states. Some 4,000 metric tons will be required for 1995. The third expansion of WFP's project 4163 commenced on 1 March 1995 and covers a twelve-month period only, after which WFP will phase out its contribution. For the 1995 project, WFP has decided to have a new implementing partner, DICONSA, WFP's usual partner in other projects elsewhere in the country.

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

26. The 1994 expenditure was slightly lower than revised estimates, mainly because political unrest restricted staff travel and fewer office supplies were purchased.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all source of funds)**

27. The revised 1995 requirements are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all source of funds)**

28. The proposed 1996 requirements are slightly lower than the 1995 revised estimates.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN MEXICO

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
1,858.3 a/	1,790.7	1,823.4	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	1,867.9
116.2	121.8	95.3	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	72.9
2,137.7 b/	1,099.4	1,375.3	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	2,956.4
4.5 c/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
1,917.2	1,960.6	2,060.3	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,875.6
6,033.9	**4,972.5**	**5,354.3**	**SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**6,772.8**
354.5	333.5	270.2	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	267.4
6,388.4	**5,306.0**	**5,624.5**	**T O T A L (1)**	**7,040.2**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
36.4	46.2	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
2,048.0	2,791.9	2,500.0	OTHER TRUST FUNDS REPATRIATION/RETURNEE PROGRAMME	2,000.0
2,888.2	2,604.1	2,665.5	CIREFCA/PRODERE	–
16.5	–	–	Various Assistance	–
225.3	276.2	169.0	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	160.8
403.9	273.1	375.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	375.0
5,618.3	**5,991.5**	**5,709.5**	**T O T A L (2)**	**2,535.8**
12,006.7	**11,297.5**	**11,334.0**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**9,576.0**

a/ of which US$ 2,389 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 6,870 incurred against Other Programmes

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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART IV. THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section 4 - United States of America

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.85-02385

IV.4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Beneficiary population

1. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) processes asylum applications to the United States, with appeal cases adjudicated by immigration judges, part of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) at the Department of Justice. Comparative statistics are as follows:

	1992(*)	1993(*)	1994(*)
Cases filed (INS)	104,000	144,200	147,600
Cases filed (EOIR)	13,000	15,300	18,200
Cases approved (INS)	3,900	5,000	8,300
Cases approved (EOIR)	1,800	1,700	1,700

(*) Fiscal year (FY) covering the period 1 October to 30 September.

2. During Fiscal Year 1994, almost 113,000 refugees were resettled in the US. Furthermore, the number of persons under temporary protection was estimated to be some 98,000 at the end of 1994.

3. Due to political developments in Haiti and Cuba during the second half of 1994, several tens of thousands of asylum-seekers from both countries attempted to reach the US by boat. Most were intercepted at sea by passing vessels -- predominantly the US Coast Guard -- and taken to safe havens in countries in the Caribbean basin according to a previous agreement reached between the US and the countries concerned. Although physically situated in a variety of Caribbean nations, they were considered a "United States" caseload, in view of their very obvious goal to reach the US. At the end of 1994 statistics covering the countries hosting these two caseloads were as follows:

	Cubans	Haitians	
Bahamas	-	40,000	(estimate)
Cayman Islands	1,200	-	
Dom. Republic	30	732	
Costa Rica	418	12	
Guantanamo Bay Naval Base (US)	29,824	4,915	(down from 21,049 earlier in the month)
Mexico	39	48	
Panama		11	
Turks & Caicos Islands	-	4,500	(estimate)
Venezuela	27	56	

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. Although there have been no major changes in operational projects or plans in the last quarter of 1994 and the first half of 1995, a number of political considerations have focused UNHCR's attention and activities:

(a) Haiti

5. The US-led intervention resulting in the return of President Aristide to Haiti in October 1994 encouraged approximately 16,000 Haitians benefiting from temporary safe haven at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to return home voluntarily. At the end of December 1994 the US offered an "enhanced benefits package" to the remaining 4,000 asylum-seekers to encourage their voluntary return, an offer which few accepted. The US then screened those remaining to determine who would be allowed to stay at Guantanamo, using a newly-created standard, and repatriated the rest. At the end of April 1995, fewer than 500 Haitians remained at Guantanamo, most of them unaccompanied minors awaiting a best interests durable solution to be determined by UNHCR, with the cooperation of the US Government, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Save the Children Fund. The US Government supported these efforts financially by providing UNHCR with an allocation of $ 701,509 for the second semester of 1994 which was partially implemented in Guantanamo by the non-governmental organization World Relief and partially used to cover UNHCR administrative expenditure. Since January 1995 the activities benefiting the residual Haitian Guantanamo caseload have been carried out directly by UNHCR under a Trust Fund project of $ 817,500, due to end by 30 June 1995. UNHCR has also urged the US to find a durable solution for those screened in for continued safe haven, as well as other Haitians for whom there is a protection need.

(b) Cuba

6. Some 30,000 Cubans fled their country in August and September 1994 and found safe haven in countries around the Caribbean. Over 2,000 Cubans who landed in the Cayman Islands were processed under refugee determination procedures and the majority were screened out. In the absence of a durable solution in the country of asylum, small groups of them took once again to the seas and landed in Central American countries such as Belize, Costa Rica and Mexico, where they were either given asylum or, in the case of Belize, were repatriated against their will in April 1995. Most of the remaining families in the Cayman Islands opted to go to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base where they were eventually granted humanitarian parole into the US. UNHCR provided advice to the Cayman Island authorities during the screening process and offered additional training and counselling for subsequent appeals.

(c) Other developments

7. Immigration remains an important issue in the new Republican-controlled Congress. A bill has been introduced which, inter alia, would provide for expedited exclusion procedures and limit the number of resettlement places to 50,000, representing a reduction of more than 50 per cent on current admission

levels. A major development in 1994 was the redrafting of the US Government's resettlement priorities to specifically incorporate UNHCR referrals of vulnerable cases, security cases and persons for whom no other durable solution is feasible. This change should enable UNHCR to refer a larger number of refugees to the resettlement programme. Since the adoption of the new procedures, there has been an ongoing dialogue to clarify and elaborate this new working relationship between UNHCR and the United States.

8. Related to the change in priorities has been an effort to expand the number of countries where the United States conducts resettlement processing. Discussions have been ongoing between the US authorities and UNHCR to choose suitable locations to undertake resettlement processing, procedures for referral to the US and the scheduling of US selection missions. By an informal mutual agreement, Africa and the Middle East have been the initial regions of focus. The first processing was conducted in Ethiopia in December 1994. In February 1995 the US resettled out of Burundi for the first time, following a UNHCR request. US selection missions also went to Zambia that same month. Further missions are scheduled for Benin, Nigeria and Jordan, and possibly later on to the Syrian Arab Republic, Ghana, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Botswana, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The issue of US processing of Iraqis in Saudi Arabia, the largest single group of refugees for whom UNHCR is seeking resettlement, continues to pose problems. To date, the US has taken about half of all those resettled from Saudi Arabia but pressure has been exerted by some quarters to reduce or eliminate the programme. UNHCR will continue to work closely with NGOs and the State Department to maintain support for it.

9. To assist the UNHCR Branch Office in Washington, DC, in explaining and interpreting the workings of UNHCR to the new Congress and the Executive Branch, and to encourage continued US political and financial leadership on behalf of refugees, a number of visits of senior UNHCR officials have been made -- and will continue throughout 1995 -- to Washington. Visitors meet with the Department of State, particularly the Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, the Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense, the National Security Council and members of Congress and their staffs. In the spirit of UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) visitors also usually meet with NGOs involved in human rights, refugee and disaster assistance, and relief and development.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

10. The Branch Office in Washington, DC, will continue in 1996 to build upon activities and initiatives started in previous years. These can be broadly grouped under four headings: protection, local settlement/resettlement, external relations including PARinAC, and training and promotional activities.

(i) Protection

11. The Branch Office will continue to work with US authorities in establishing fair, effective and expedient screening procedures through legislative or

administrative reforms. UNHCR will continue to provide technical advice on draft legislation bills to amend the US Asylum Act. UNHCR will likewise continue to work with US attorneys in filing gender-related claims on behalf of women seeking asylum, particularly in the context of the new US Federal Court decisions citing persecution on the basis of gender as a ground for asylum.

(ii) Local settlement/resettlement

12. In addition to continuing the ongoing discussions on locations for resettlement processing of substantial numbers of refugees, individual cases will also continue to be given careful appraisal and support for resettlement in the US whenever their situation so merits. The resettlement project will continue to receive a high volume of referrals for assistance from various quarters, and to try to limit its individual casework to those refugees for whom UNHCR assistance is the only alternative to bring about their resettlement. Special attention will be given to resettlement of vulnerable cases, especially women and individuals whose lives are endangered. The Branch Office will continue to work with voluntary agencies and attorneys nationwide on the filing of waiver requests for refugees who test HIV-positive and, ultimately, on eliminating the need for the waiver process altogether.

(iii) External relations

13. Efforts will continue in 1996 to develop contacts in the Executive and Legislative branches, as well as NGOs, media, foundations and academic institutions, and to coordinate improvements to the Branch Office's computerized databases for asylum and refugee issues.

14. Increasing efforts will be made by the US for UNHCR to recruit prominent Americans to the Executive and Advisory Boards of the organization and to utilize their influence and contacts to build and strengthen public, congressional and executive branch political and financial support for UNHCR activities around the world.

(iv) Training and promotional activities

15. As in 1995, the Branch Office will continue to strengthen its partnership with NGOs through a number of promotional activities, such as round-table discussions, seminars and workshops. The Branch Office will schedule regional PARinAC meetings in the western states at least twice a year, given the large number of potential supporters, refugee communities and asylum applicants there.

16. The southern border states will also be visited more regularly, particularly given the concentration of Republican Congressional leadership from the area. These meetings will be scheduled to the extent possible with legal and resettlement training fora and possibly in conjunction with guest lectures or major conferences. Lunch seminars on programme and protection issues with government, NGO and academic participants, a successful and cost-effective way of disseminating information on UNHCR activities, will continue to be scheduled regularly.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

17. The local settlement project under General Programmes will continue with the same activities and staff as in 1994 and 1995, although a slight increase of 12 per cent in the budget is anticipated to cover higher salaries of agency staff, in line with federal pay levels, and a higher office rent.

(c) Implementing partners

18. Church World Services will continue to implement the local settlement project in 1996. Two legal counsellors, two resettlement counsellors and two support staff carry out legal and resettlement counselling and assist in identifying suitable refugee support groups willing to sponsor refugees seeking resettlement in the US. The NGO USA for UNHCR will implement the project covering promotional and fund raising activities on behalf of UNHCR in the private sector.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

19. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I(A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

20. The 1994 expenditure was lower than the revised estimates. This was due to expenditure on the Haiti operation, staff travel, office rent and communications being less than foreseen.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

21. The revised 1995 requirements are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

22. The 1996 requirements are proposed at approximately the same level as revised 1995.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
38.1 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
341.2 b/	367.1	425.1	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	483.6
1,363.1	1,930.5	1,929.6	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,928.3
1,742.4	**2,297.6**	**2,354.7**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**2,411.9**
353.0	431.4	215.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	215.4
2,095.4	**2,729.0**	**2,569.7**	**T O T A L (1)**	**2,627.3**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
139.4	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
149.8	–	44.5	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
289.2	**0.0**	**44.5**	**T O T A L (2)**	**0.0**
2,384.6	**2,729.0**	**2,614.2**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**2,627.3**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 997 incurred against Other Programmes

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PART IV. THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section 5 - Other Countries in Central America

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02224

IV.5 OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION

1. This chapter covers UNHCR activities in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

1. Beneficiary population

2. At 31 December 1994, there were 8,805 refugees in Belize, 24,600 in Costa Rica, 152 in El Salvador, 91 in Honduras, 300 in Nicaragua and almost 1,000 in Panama. Furthermore, in Belize, there are some 10,000 to 20,000 undocumented Central Americans reported to be in refugee-like situations. Of this number some 4,800 refugees are assisted by UNHCR. The majority of the refugees in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama are of Nicaraguan, Salvadoran and Guatemalan origin. There are also some refugees from the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and South America, especially in Belize, Costa Rica and Panama. Approximately 45 per cent of the refugees in these countries are female and over 10 per cent are children under five years old. Most of the refugees of Central American origin are farmers living in rural areas, while refugees from other regions tend to settle in urban areas.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. The promulgation in November 1992 of Executive Decree 21721-G allowing refugees to obtain residence status in Costa Rica enabled UNHCR to address their legal integration in 1993. By 31 May 1995 a total of 10,200 refugees had been granted resident status in Costa Rica. Even though the decree expired in November 1993 refugees continue to be able to apply for and obtain residence status. In addition, 335 refugees have obtained residence status in other countries in the region: 312 in Nicaragua, 12 in Honduras and 11 in Panama. The number of beneficiaries assisted to voluntarily repatriate from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama proved to be less than originally planned for 1994, which resulted in a corresponding reduction of budgetary requirements for 1995 and 1996.

4. Through the project of regional promotion and consolidation of durable solutions technical assistance was given to the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA)-convening countries, in preparation for the CIREFCA final event in June 1994. Furthermore, the project-funded activities aimed to consolidate the progress made within CIREFCA by organizing workshops to strengthen the local capacity to continue addressing the needs of uprooted populations, formulating post-CIREFCA follow-up and implementation mechanisms and establishing of post-CIREFCA support groups. Due to the late arrival of key staff the total of the budgeted funds were not used.

5. UNHCR and the Interamerican Institute of Human Rights jointly organized, under the auspices of the Government of Costa Rica, an international colloquium in San José to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration. The colloquium adopted the San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons, which addresses amongst other issues, harmonizing the legal

criteria and procedures to consolidate the durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration in Central America, Mexico and Belize, and continuing the voluntary repatriation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico.

6. Durable solutions continued to be achieved and strengthened through quick impact projects (QIPs). In El Salvador, the QIP programme, which facilitated the integration of approximately 31,500 Salvadoran returnees, was completed by March 1995. In Belize, the QIP programme will continue through 1995 at a reduced level aimed at facilitating the socio-economic integration of 10,600 refugees and undocumented persons in refugee-like situations.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

7. In order to consolidate the significant achievements in identifying durable solutions in the region and to prevent future refugee flows, efforts will concentrate on increasing awareness of UNHCR's protection mandate, promoting respect for human rights and institution-building. These efforts will include the promotion and support of mechanisms to consolidate durable solutions, i.e. reintegrating returnees, allowing refugees to obtain residence in countries of asylum, establishing refugee determination procedures in countries where they are still lacking, and disseminating information on human rights as well as the fundamental obligations of States.

8. As durable solutions have been identified for the vast majority of refugees in previous years, material assistance provided to refugees through local settlement and repatriation programmes in Costa Rica, El Salvador Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama has been considerably reduced in 1994. Nevertheless, an estimated 4,535 refugees will benefit from subsistence grants, health coverage, legal protection and education: approximately 1,200 in Belize, 1,900 in Costa Rica, 140 in El Salvador, 50 in Honduras, 445 in Nicaragua and 800 in Panama. Of this total, approximately 65 per cent will be of Central American origin. It is expected that approximately 205 new arrivals will require immediate attention for a three-month period, and 50 vulnerable cases will continue to require a subsistence allowance pending a durable solution.

9. Support for the voluntary repatriation of 330 refugees in the region has been planned in 1996: refugees are expected to repatriate to various countries from Belize (100), Costa Rica (150), El Salvador (10), Honduras (20), Nicaragua (20), and Panama (30).

10. In Belize there is still a need to stabilize and consolidate the integration of refugees who do not opt to repatriate by promoting community-based socio-economic activities through QIPs. The QIP programme will continue in a reduced form through 1996.

11. A regional project designed to promote preventive protection and consolidate the identification of durable solutions in the region will continue throughout 1996. The project will include activities designed to improve the awareness of international refugee law and human rights law; strengthen UNHCR's role as a catalyst for the promotion of rights of refugees, returnees, and other uprooted persons through dissemination of information on network including the participation of United Nations agencies, government institutions and NGOs;

establish refugee determination procedures in those countries still lacking such mechanisms (El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua); train government officials in the application of status determination procedures; and support mechanisms to allow for the obtention of residence status for refugees who choose to remain in Central American countries of asylum.

12. A total of 21 university students (17 in Costa Rica, two in Panama, one in Honduras and one in El Salvador) will benefit from the German Albert Einstein Refugee Academic Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme in 1996, the majority from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru and Haiti.

13. The handover of a trust fund managed by UNHCR to the Government of Costa Rica in 1995 will allow for the continuation of productive credit schemes, facilitating the integration and self-sufficiency of refugees in Costa Rica.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

14. In Belize the budgetary requirements for Special Programmes have been reduced as the requirements have been included under General Programmes.

15. Budgetary requirements for the regional projects have been reduced for voluntary repatriation but slightly raised for regional promotion and consolidation of durable solutions.

(c) Implementing partners

16. In Costa Rica, Consultores y Asesores Internacionales will implement project activities related to the local integration of refugees and provide legal counselling and follow-up on all legal aspects related to the residence status of refugees in each respective country, while Rodriguez y Zamora SRL will administer arrangements with support staff to monitor the local integration process. In Panama, the UNHCR programme is implemented by the Government through its Ministry of Government and Justice, which in turn has delegated responsibility to the National Office for Refugees (ONPAR). Operations in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras are covered by regional projects administered by the Regional Office in Costa Rica.

17. In Belize the local NGO Help for Progress is the new implementing partner for the QIP programme, as the International Rescue Committee withdrew from Belize in early 1995. The two other major implementing partners are the Government's Refugee Department, which carries out status determination, and the Belize Council of Churches, which handles material assistance and economic integration activities including education, training, vocational skills development and income-generating projects to promote self sufficiency. Finally, the Human Rights Commission of Belize is involved in human rights-related training of refugees and community leaders.

18. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) makes international travel arrangements for refugees repatriating to countries in the region.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

19. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

20. The 1994 expenditure was not significantly different from revised estimates.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

21. The revised 1995 requirements do not vary significantly from initial estimates.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

22. The 1996 requirements are slightly lower than in the 1995 revised estimates. This is due to the anticipated move of the Nicaragua office to th UNDP premises and to the phasing down of UNHCR's presence in El Salvador duri 1995.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995			1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
				GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)	
0.3 a/	–	–		CARE AND MAINTENANCE	–
160.0	465.3	433.3	Regional Project	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	273.4
				LOCAL SETTLEMENT	
585.2 c/	456.6	456.6	Belize		806.6
–	–	–	Nicaragua		–
162.5	–	–	Panama		–
259.8	891.8	1,103.2	Regional Project		1,233.7
574.0 b/	–	–	Costa Rica		–
				RESETTLEMENT	
0.8 a/	–	–	El Salvador		–
0.5 a/	–	–	Nicaragua		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
444.5	386.8	355.7	Belize		447.9
838.3	703.0	793.6	Costa Rica		769.9
–	–	111.8	El Salvador		174.8
59.1	126.1	95.6	Nicaragua		87.9
69.6	106.1	86.7	Honduras		82.4
3,154.6	3,135.7	3,436.5		SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	3,876.6
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	
27.2	39.3	37.3	Belize		36.1
194.6	209.5	219.6	Costa Rica		137.3
–	–	18.8	El Salvador		32.7
3,376.4	**3,384.5**	**3,712.2**		**TOTAL (1)**	**4,082.7**
				SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)	
				EDUCATION ACCOUNT	
–	11.4	–	Costa Rica		–
0.6	–	–	Honduras		–
				OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
1.8	–	–	Nicaragua	QUICK IMPACT PROGRAMME	–
1,264.8	–	–	El Salvador	Assistance to returnees in El Salvador	–
1,517.2	840.0	840.0	Belize		–
415.0	–	–	Costa Rica	CIREFCA/PRODERE	–
3.1	–	–	Honduras		–
2.5	–	–	Panama		–
–	–	23.0	Regional Project		23.0
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY	
95.0	25.9	100.0	Belize	See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
52.3	17.3	–	Costa Rica		–
36.0	4.0	–	Nicaragua		–
266.2	268.2	133.5	El Salvador		–
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer	
38.5	49.8	18.8	El Salvador	See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
103.3	124	56.5	Belize		56.5
115.5	137.0	22.5	El Salvador		–
84.6	34.1	45.0	Costa Rica		45.0
3,996.4	**1,511.7**	**1,239.3**		**TOTAL (2)**	**124.5**
7,372.8	**4,896.2**	**4,951.5**		**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**4,207.2**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 2.722 incurred against Other Programmes
c/ of which US$ 1.430 incurred against Other Programmes

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PART IV. THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section 6 - Northern South America and the Caribbean

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02323

IV.6 NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. This chapter covers UNHCR activities in Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Venezuela, Jamaica and other Caribbean countries.

1. Beneficiary population

2. At 31 December 1994, Northern South America and the Caribbean hosted a population of some 5,900 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly Haitians, Cubans and Africans. UNHCR believes that there may be a higher number of persons of concern to UNHCR in the region and is pursuing investigations in this area. Indeed, initial estimates in 1995 put the figure at closer to 10,500. Further clarifications will continue to be made throughout the year as each country's statistics are re-evaluated.

3. The largest number of Haitian refugees is in the Dominican Republic whereas Cuban refugees are mainly to be found in Venezuela and the Bahamas. All the African refugees, mainly Western Saharans and Sudanese, are located in Cuba.

4. Most refugees are of urban origin and live in or around the capital cities. Over half of the total refugee population are men, women account for 22 per cent and children 25 per cent. Their level of education ranges from primary schooling to university. In 1994 UNHCR assisted about one quarter of the refugee population in the region.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

5. The restoration in October 1994, under international supervision, of the democratically elected regime of Jean-Bertrand Aristide made possible the repatriation of large numbers of Haitian exiles, the majority from the Dominican Republic. The change of regime also led some countries of the region to forcibly repatriate Haitian nationals residing without legal status in their territories. The foremost of these involuntary repatriations was from the Bahamas, whose Government concluded an agreement to this effect with the Government of Haiti in early 1995. Starting in January 1995 an allocation of funds from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation was made to finance the expected voluntary repatriation of approximately 1,000 refugees in the Dominican Republic and to maintain a small office in Haiti which monitors the welfare of returnees and liaises with other organizations and government bodies.

6. Armed conflict over territorial claims between Ecuador and Peru erupted in early 1995, necessitating the resettlement of some Peruvian refugees in Ecuador. Another effect of the hostilities was the creation of over 10,000 internally displaced persons, both in Ecuador and Peru. The Government of Ecuador formally requested the United Nations Secretary-General that UNHCR participate in the provision of humanitarian assistance to these displaced persons, but this request was not granted. The UNHCR Regional Office in Venezuela continues to closely monitor the situation.

7. In an unexpected development, all but 20 of the 440 Haitian refugees in Cuba repatriated in November 1994, enabling a substantial decrease in the 1995 care and maintenance project. Following a formal request from the Cuban Government to the High Commissioner in 1994, UNHCR started a programme of assistance for 1,493 Western Saharan and 278 Sudanese male refugee students. Student beneficiaries in the academic year 1994-1995 are 1,133 Western Saharans and 89 Sudanese at the secondary level, with an additional 550 students -- 360 Western Saharans, 189 Sudanese and 1 refugee from Swaziland -- at tertiary level under the Albert Einstein German Refugee Academic Initiative (DAFI) programme.

3. 1996 Country programmes

(a) Objectives

8. The Regional Office for Northern South America and the Caribbean will continue to follow the same objectives in 1996 as were set out in 1995, namely:

(i) Promotion and dissemination of refugee law

9. UNHCR will continue to promote accession to international instruments by countries in the region which have not yet done so. In particular, emphasis will be placed on appropriate legislation to implement the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in Venezuela, whose progress towards this end is slow, and to ensure closer adherence to Convention criteria by Ecuador and Jamaica. Further efforts will be made to support countries of the region to ensure that their asylum and refugee determination procedures are brought more into line with Executive Committee conclusions. The international principles of refugee protection and asylum, as embodied in the 1951 Convention, will continue to be disseminated through seminars, lectures, conferences and round-table discussions.

(ii) Assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees

10. UNHCR will continue to provide asylum-seekers and refugees with initial basic short-term care and maintenance assistance, counselling to promote self-sufficiency, and minimum support for income-generating activities where appropriate and feasible. Related to this is the intention of the Regional Office to conduct a more structured assessment of assistance resources and of potential, as well as current, operational partners in the region. Experiences, tested methodologies and programme management principles will be part of the review, to be carried out in periodic workshops. Preliminary data and contacts of this nature have been gathered already and an inventory of complementary assistance and reference resources, and institutions for all countries in the region, projected to be completed by the end of 1995, may lead to changes in implementing arrangements in 1996.

(iii) Public information/awareness campaign

11. Special emphasis is placed on increasing public sensitivity to UNHCR issues of concern through contacts with the media and schools. In 1996 Regional Office Caracas will continue the successful method of printing an educational

pamphlet for distribution throughout the region and to apprise various educational institutions of the work of UNHCR.

(b) **Proposed budgets for 1996**

(i) **Care and maintenance**

12. Assistance in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela will continue at similar levels to 1994 and 1995, covering food, health, shelter and domestic needs. A small decrease of African students in Cuba will result in a slightly reduced allocation for 1996.

(ii) **Voluntary repatriation**

13. While allocations for voluntary repatriation movements are slightly lower than in 1995, support to returnees is envisaged to continue until the first quarter of the year only in Haiti while individual cases of voluntary repatriation from the region will continue throughout the year.

(iii) **Local settlement**

14. Of continuing importance in the facilitation of self-sufficiency of refugees is the Dominican Republic's cooperation in legalizing in the stay of Haitian refugees and allowing them to work. However, due to the voluntary repatriation in 1994 and 1995 of about 1,000 refugees and large-scale deportation of other Haitians illegally in the country, it is proposed to decrease the local settlement allocation considerably in 1996.

(c) **Implementing partners**

15. The main implementing partners of UNHCR in the region will remain the same in 1996: the Conferencia Episcopal Venezolana in Venezuela, the Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social in Colombia, the Comité Pro-Refugiados of the Conferencia Episcopal Ecuatoriana in Ecuador, the Centro de Trabajo Social Dominicano in the Dominican Republic, the Cuban Red Cross in Cuba and the NGO Justice and Peace in Haiti. UNHCR also counts on the valuable political and logistical support of UNDP Resident Representatives throughout the region, including the processing of payments to our implementing partners. The same partners and implementing arrangements are envisaged to continue in 1996.

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

16. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

17. The 1994 expenditure was higher than revised estimates mainly due to the Haitian operation which gained momentum from mid-1994.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

18. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates mainly due to the ongoing programme of monitoring the return of Haitians to Haiti. An additional Junior Professional Officer was recruited for Venezuela.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

19. The 1996 requirements are lower than the 1995 revised estimates, because it is expected that the Haitian repatriation will end by December 1995 as well as due to the expected reduction in the local settlement programme in the Dominican Republic.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995			1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
			GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)		
				CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
41.9	47.5	66.3	Colombia		62.1
458.9 a/	46.9	226.3	Cuba		211.6
84.6	84.2	57.3	Ecuador		57.3
42.0	68.0	46.4	Venezuela		46.4
7.0	20.0	40.0	Regional Project		26.3
				VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	
755.7	211.6	211.6	Regional Project		211.6
108.0 b/	–	–	Dominican Republic		–
21.6 b/	–	15.0 e/	Haiti		–
				LOCAL SETTLEMENT	
0.5 c/	–	–	Ecuador		–
0.4 c/	–	–	Venezuela		–
469.3 d/	533.8	403.0	Dominican Republic		150.0
29.2	–	–	Regional Project		–
				RESETTLEMENT	
2.0 c/	–	–	Colombia		–
2.6 c/	–	–	Dominican Republic		–
28.5 c/	–	–	Haiti		–
6.8 c/	–	–	Cuba		–
1.3 c/	–	–	Venezuela		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
328.9	390.9	342.0	Dominican Republic		335.1
93.9	134.1	491.4 e/	Haiti		–
783.8	887.6	1,155.2	Venezuela		1,049.9
3,266.9	2,424.6	3,054.5		SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	2,150.3
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	
42.2	51.0	82.2	Dominican Republic		82.9
96.1	108.6	96.2	Venezuela		99.1
3,405.2	**2,584.2**	**3,232.9**		**TOTAL (1)**	**2,332.3**
			SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)		
				EDUCATION ACCOUNT	
2.1	2.5	–	Colombia		–
4.6	10.2	–	Regional Project		–
2.4	10.0	–	Dominican Republic		–
				OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
832.2	–	908.4	Regional Project		–
3.6	–	–	Colombia		–
2.0	–	–	Ecuador		–
60.0	–	–	Cuba		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
82.1	–	101.0	Cuba		–
434.5	–	–	Jamaica		–
153.2	–	–	Haiti		43.5
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer	
73.8	27.6	149.5	Venezuela	See Overview Tables (Part II)	65.5
28.0	–	81.0	Dominican Republic		81.0
1,678.5	**50.3**	**1,239.9**		**TOTAL (2)**	**190.0**
5,083.7	**2,634.5**	**4,472.8**		**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**2,522.3**

a/ of which US$ 67,852 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ obligation incurred against the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
c/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
d/ of which US$ 700 incurred against Other Programmes
e/ allocated against the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART IV. THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section 7 - Southern South America

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02320

IV. 7 SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

1. This chapter covers UNHCR activities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

1. Beneficiary population

2. At 31 December 1994, southern South America hosted approximately 15,900 refugees as estimated by governmental authorities, of whom 3,000 were assisted by UNHCR. Some 50 nationalities can be identified among the refugees hosted in the countries covered by the UNHCR Regional Office in Argentina. Most of them come from Africa (predominantly young single males from Angola, Liberia and Zaire). They arrive mainly in Brazil, for reasons of their historical, cultural and economic links, and spread gradually to neighbouring countries. Other asylum-seekers are from Europe (the Russian Federation, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia) as well as from Latin America (Peru, Cuba and, to a lesser extent, Haiti). All asylum-seekers are of urban origin and find asylum in the urban centres of the region. Asian refugees arriving in 1994 and 1995 are from India, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lebanon. An older caseload that arrived in the 1980s through major resettlement programmes are mainly from Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The majority of this caseload found asylum in Argentina (with smaller numbers in Paraguay) and currently only receive UNHCR assistance for educational purposes with a view to supporting their local integration.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. As expected, the assisted refugee population increased considerably in 1994 and the first quarter of 1995. In Argentina the number of newly arrived asylum-seekers is treble the original figure foreseen, requiring an upward revision of the 1995 budget.

4. In Brazil, the 1994 programme required revisions resulting from unforeseen circumstances. On the one hand, the influx of asylum-seekers was higher than expected -- 120 monthly instead of 40. On the other hand, the number of beneficiaries anticipated for local integration was higher than the number that effectively integrated. Thus, the programme's adjustment resulted in a budgetary increase of 37 per cent. The Brazilian Government has gradually assumed more responsibility regarding refugee policy and provision of assistance to the caseload, although this will have no financial implications in the short term. Increased staffing in the Brasilia office has resulted in an enhanced capacity to run the programme proactively. Notwithstanding the fact that since the beginning of 1995 there has been a decrease in the number of asylum-seekers arriving in Brazil from African countries (mainly Angola), the number of refugees who continue to require assistance has risen. An upward revision by an estimated 15 per cent to the 1995 project may be required. By September 1995 the number of those receiving assistance will be affected by the new policy, jointly drawn up by the Government of Brazil, the implementing agency CARITAS and UNHCR, to impose a time limit on the receipt of material assistance of a maximum of six months per person. The 1996 project should start to reflect the savings that will result from this policy.

5. In a new development, and perhaps as a result of the knowledge that assistance will henceforth be time-limited as well as the lack of employment opportunities for refugees in Brazil, it has been noticed that some families originally granted refugee status in Brazil have applied for refugee status in other countries in the area, predominantly in Argentina and Chile. The Regional Office has successfully negotiated with the Government of Brazil for their return to Brazil.

6. Chile is also witnessing an increase in asylum-seekers -- mainly from Peru and Cuba -- from an average of six persons per month in 1994 to eleven in the first quarter of 1995. Chilean government institutions are committed to making every attempt to place refugees in the local labour market. These institutions, working in cooperation with national institutions, are extending their facilities to the returnee population as well.

7. The situation in Peru has evolved throughout 1995. While it was initially feared that internal violence, the flow of Peruvian asylum-seekers and requests for family reunification with Peruvian refugees abroad would increase, as indeed they did in early 1995, they subsequently proved to be less serious during the course of the year. The outflow of Peruvians remained steady, its main impact falling on Bolivia, Argentina and Chile. Family reunification with refugees abroad continues, although there is no specific programme foreseen for the group. Peruvian refugees abroad are increasingly requesting assistance in obtaining personal documents such as birth certificates and other documents from their country of origin.

(a) **Voluntary repatriation**

8. In March 1994 the Cessation Clauses of the UNHCR Statute and the 1951 Convention were deemed to apply to refugees who had fled Chile as a result of events which took place following the 1973 military coup. The effect of this has been an upsurge in the number of Chileans abroad requesting refugee status in order to obtain repatriation assistance. Case-by-case analysis of the requests resulted in recognition of an increased number of returnees to Chile, requiring a revision of the 1994 budget for voluntary repatriation. In August 1994 the Chilean National Return Office (NRO) ceased its four-year activities, after having assisted some 60,000 Chileans representing 17,500 families. Legal benefits for returnees such as tax exemptions and recognition of academic degrees were also agreed on: tax exemptions are still valid according to migratory criteria and recognition of academic degrees will continue until the end of 1995 for returnees who manifested the will to return prior to March 1994. The UNHCR Liaison Office in Chile has verified some 3,000 returnees to confirm their refugee status obtained abroad and to grant them certificates which would allow them to obtain benefits from the NRO.

9. Another group of nationals increasingly opting for voluntary repatriation are some of the Lao and Cambodians resettled in Argentina in the late 1970s. Assessments of these requests will be made together with the implementing agency bearing in mind the extension of their residence in the asylum country and the fact that most of the families have Argentine children and thus have the possibility of obtaining permanent residence in and nationality of the asylum country.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

10. The Regional Office will continue to promote its policy of local integration through its interaction with the Government, the local community and the implementing partner in each country. Further emphasis will be given to promoting the right of asylum and human rights in general, and refugee law in particular, through seminars, workshops, conferences and public information campaigns.

11. During 1996 Brazil is expected to continue receiving substantial numbers of Angolans, Zairians and Liberians. The Brazilian Government has a generous policy of granting entry visas based on its traditional cultural and economic links with Angola. However, if improvements in the country of origin continue, 1996 may see a reduction in the flow of asylum-seekers from that country. In addition, implementation of the policy concerning the gradual discontinuation of subsistence allowance to those refugees who are fully documented and in a position to find a job may allow for a reduced allocation during 1996.

12. The Tripartite Agreement signed with Chilean Government, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR ceased altogether with the closure of the NRO. As it was considered important that UNHCR should continue its activities in ensuring protection to returnees, an agreement was reached with Social Pastoral Vicariate of the Archbishopric of Santiago to implement a Trust Fund project aimed at providing legal assistance to returnees.

13. As a result of a Regional Workshop on Educational Assistance to Refugees held in Buenos Aires in March 1995, procedures will be streamlined in all of the countries implementing education programmes to achieve higher consistency in the coordination of educational policies oriented to local integration of the refugees in those countries. The number of students benefiting from assistance under the Education Account in 1996 will be similar to those in 1994 and 1995, provided that the academic requirements are duly fulfilled. In addition, the German Albert Einstein Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) Programme for assistance to higher education will also continue to be implemented throughout the region, estimated to benefit 144 refugees and 66 Chilean returnees. This project is proving to be a great support for the local integration of the refugees.

(i) Implementing legislation and promotion of refugee law

14. The countries covered by the Regional Office are all parties to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol. However, not all of them have incorporated these international instruments within their own national legislation. Encouraging the issuance of adequate national implementing legislation in accordance with the principles of international protection remains, therefore, a key priority for the Regional Office. The countries which have yet to adopt an adequate legislation are Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay. They have shown, under their current democratic Governments, full respect for human rights, in particular Chile and Uruguay.

15. In Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay, the creation of an Eligibility Commission is being studied and steps are being taken, with UNHCR's participation and support, to achieve successful implementation. In Chile, implementing legislation is at present under consideration by Congress. The Administration which took office in March 1994 expedited treatment of those articles dealing with refugee matters in the Executive Bill being discussed in Congress. As a result, by the end of August 1994 the lower house approved the proposal and transferred it to the Senate for final approval. In addition, recent focus has been given to the procedures to be applied in the eligibility process. Proposals in this regard are being prepared by the Chilean Institute of International Studies in close cooperation with the UNHCR Regional Office.

16. In Paraguay, there is still need for further high-level discussion to raise awareness on refugee matters and international protection. A decree proposing procedures, although not entirely up to international standards, demonstrates that positive developments are taking place and must be followed up. Implementing legislation in Peru is awaiting amendment. Two regional seminars are foreseen in 1996, one on refugee policy and another on internally displaced persons Both seminars will follow similar ones held during the past two years, the conclusions of which will help to evaluate the results achieved in each of the issues concerned and determine additional areas that need to be covered. Training plans also foresee refugee law seminars in Paraguay, Chile and Brazil in order to expedite implementing legislation, and in Bolivia and Chile to reinforce refugee eligibility procedure. The dissemination of refugee law will continue to be addressed to the armed forces of those countries participating in international peace-keeping operations, and are planned to take place in Uruguay and Bolivia. A seminar is also planned to follow-up UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) recommendations in Uruguay and Bolivia.

(b) **Proposed budgets for 1996**

17. In general, budgets are proposed at similar levels to 1995. There is a slight increase in the local settlement project in Argentina, due to increasing new arrivals. The local settlement project has been budgeted for 370 beneficiaries, but may have to be revised upwards to cover up to 660 beneficiaries.

(c) **Implementing partners**

18. UNHCR carries out its assistance programmes throughout the region in collaboration with a network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and in close cooperation with its governmental counterparts. The NGOs, UNHCR's implementing partners, also collaborate in eligibility determination procedures by interviewing asylum-seekers. In countries where there is no UNHCR office the implementing partner assumes responsibility for refugee-related issues under the supervision of the Regional Office, which carries out regular missions.

19. Implementation of UNHCR's programmes requires constant liaison with all its partners to ensure objectives are still relevant. Additional activities are being programmed for 1996 that will address the increasing focus on local integration through the organization of workshops, conferences and training

sessions for implementing partners and governmental bodies. The goal is to shift orientation from assistance to refugees under care and maintenance to local integration. In this respect, additional regional seminars on local integration are planned in the second semester of 1995 and again in 1996, to assist implementing partners to assess viability and impact of current local integration activities and to put into effect local integration strategies adjusted to each country context.

20. Counselling and assistance to refugees will continue to be provided through specialized agencies which possess extensive experience in migration and refugee-related issues: the Catholic Commission for Migration (CCAM), in Argentina; the Specialized Centre for Migration Studies and Services (CESEM) in Bolivia; CARITAS in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo as well as Centro Italo Brasileno Asistencia y Instrucciones de Migraciones (CIBAI) Porto Alegre, in Brazil; the Catholic Institute for Migration (INCAMI) in Chile; the Catholic Commission for Migration (CCPM) in Peru; the Organization for the Protection and Assistance for Refugees (OPR) in Uruguay and the Church Committee for Emergency Assistance (CIPAE) in Paraguay. In the last case, evaluations are being made of the need to change the objectives of the programme and consequently the implementing partner. A decision will be taken once the evaluation has been completed. The Regional Office will continue to work with IOM to undertake voluntary repatriation throughout the region.

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

21. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

22. The 1994 expenditure was slightly lower than the revised estimates due to reduced expenditure incurred on staff costs, local travel and public information activities.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

23. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than the initial estimates. This is primarily the case in Brazil and is due to a rent increase, the need to hire security guards, provide cleaning services, and purchase new office equipment and furniture, and the creation of a National Officer post.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

24. The 1996 requirements are slightly lower than in the 1995 revised estimates. This is due to the anticipated reduction in the care and maintenance programme in Brazil as a result of a new assistance strategy, and to the planned closure of the office in Chile at the end of 1995.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995			1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)					
				CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
166.2	196.4	198.2	Bolivia		197.6
1,266.7	1,031.7	1,466.5	Brazil		1,218.1
104.8	124.8	175.0	Chile		173.6
13.4	21.1	21.1	Paraguay		22.4
89.3	100.0	101.5	Uruguay		101.5
70.4	85.2	90.5	Peru		90.5
0.9 a/	–	–	Argentina		–
				VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	
216.1	160.2	160.3	Argentina		137.9
79.1	30.0	30.0	Regional Project		30.0
101.8 c/	–	–	Chile		–
				LOCAL SETTLEMENT	
500.0 b/	435.7	459.3	Argentina		465.9
5.9 a/	–	–	Brazil		–
7.0 a/	–	–	Chile		–
				RESETTLEMENT	
0.4 a/	–	–	Argentina		–
20.1 a/	–	–	Peru		–
3.6 a/	–	–	Chile		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
813.4	876.6	1,042.3	Argentina		1,025.3
336.0	356.3	602.2	Brazil		571.1
196.2	178.4	211.9	Chile		–
8.1	48.6	–	Regional Training		–
3,999.4	3,645.0	4,558.8		SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	4,033.9
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	
198.7	213.0	210.1	Argentina		201.2
65.5	83.2	74.1	Brazil		69.7
51.4	62.8	71.5	Chile		–
134.4	232.6	–	Regional Training		–
4,449.4	**4,236.6**	**4,914.5**		**TOTAL (1)**	**4,304.8**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)					
				EDUCATION ACCOUNT	
17.4	17.5	–	Argentina		–
25.0	59.2	–	Brazil		–
85.8	86.0	–	Peru, Bolivia and Uruguay		–
				OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
10.4	–	71.4	Chile	Assistance to returnees in Chile	–
612.3	–	743.0	Regional Project		743.0
2.9	–	–	Bolivia		–
2.5	–	–	Peru		–
6.9	–	–	Uruguay		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY	
7.2	67.9	–	Regional Training	See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
–	32.0	–	Argentina	See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer	
42.8	–	49.0	Argentina	See Overview Tables (Part II)	49.0
813.2	**262.6**	**863.4**		**TOTAL (2)**	**792.0**
5,262.6	**4,499.2**	**5,777.9**		**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**5,096.8**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 17,100 incurred against Other Programmes
c/ obligation incurred under the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
d/ of which US$ 19,377 incurred against Other Programmes
e/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation